

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph starting with "The first preferred" beginning on page 6, lines 23-31 and ending on page 7, lines 1-16 with the following amended paragraph:

The first preferred embodiment of the aperture correction system according to the current invention includes a look-up table unit 115 which outputs an appropriate correction coefficient. The look-up table unit 115 stores a predetermined set of correction coefficients and selects a multiplication coefficient for a multiplication unit 116 based upon the sign signal and an original relative light intensity signal Y of a reference pixel. The sign is determined by a relation between the relative light intensity of the pixel and that of pixels surrounding the pixel. For example, one implementation is that the sign is positive when a value of the data representative of the relative intensity of a reference pixel is larger than that of surrounding pixels. For the same example, the sign is negative when a value of the data representative of the relative intensity of the reference pixel is smaller than that of surrounding pixels. The multiplication unit 116 multiplies the amplified signal by the selected multiplication coefficient. The product signal is further processed. A limiting unit 117 includes a function which has a predetermined maximal output value for any input value above a predetermined positive threshold value as well as a predetermined minimal output value for any input value below a predetermined negative threshold value. The limiting unit 117 outputs a limiting output signal according the above-described function. An adding unit 118 of the aperture correction device 106 finally outputs an enhanced high-frequency portion light intensity signal by adding the limiting output signal to the original relative intensity value Y. The enhanced high-frequency portion light intensity signal is converted by another gamma conversion unit 119 before outputting to an output device such as a display unit. Because the preferred embodiment of the aperture correction system according to the current invention variably adjusts a correction efficient value based upon the sign and the original relative light intensity value, the aperture correction is optimized, and the average light intensity is maintained before and after the aperture correction for natural appearance of the image.